

SUMMER READING LIST

This is not required reading; it is list of outstanding books for children.

Summer vacation provides the opportunity for children to read a wide variety of books. Please encourage your children to read during their summer vacation.

The following resources were used to compile this list: The American Library Association's 2010 Notable Children's Books, Houston Area Independent Schools Library Network (HAISLN) Recommended Reading List, [School Library Journal](#) top picks, and favorites of the librarians and students.

PRIMARY GRADES

Arnold, Tedd. ***I Spy Fly Guy!***

A disastrous ending to a game of hide and seek finds Fly Guy hauled away to the local dump in this new take on a lost pet. (A 2010 Geisel Honor Book.)

Barrows, Annie. ***Ivy and Bean.***

When seven-year-old Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy, the new neighbor, who is less boring than Bean first suspected. Series

Becker, Bonny. ***A Visitor for Bear.***

Bear's efforts to keep out visitors to his house are undermined by a very persistent mouse.

Bishop, Nic. ***Nic Bishop Spiders.***

Includes foldout pages, photographs, and text provide basic information about various kinds of spiders.

Cronin, Doreen. ***Diary of a Fly.***

A young fly discovers, day by day, that there is a lot to learn about being an insect, including the dangers of flyswatters, and that heroes come in all shapes and sizes.

Dicamillo, Kate. ***Mercy Watson Thinks Like a Pig.***

Two sisters move in next door to where Mercy the pig lives, and frustrated when Mercy continues to eat their flowers, they decide to call for the help of an Animal Control Officer, Francine Poulet, to handle the case. Series

Elliott, David. ***On the Farm.***

Animals of the farmyard, including a goat, a cow, a rooster, bees, and bunnies, are presented in verse accompanied by woodcut and watercolor illustrations.

Grogan, John. ***Bad Dog Marley!***

Marley, a rambunctious puppy causes lots of trouble in his new home and feels very sad about it. He then proves beyond a doubt that he is a valuable member of the household.

Henkes, Kevin. ***Birds.***

A young unseen narrator explores colors, shapes, and sizes as she watches red, blue, yellow and green birds outside her window. Perfect for the youngest.

Hills, Tad. ***Duck and Goose.***

Duck and Goose learn to work together to take care of a ball that they think is an oversized egg.

Hoberman, Mary Ann. ***You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Fairy Tales to Read Together.*** Little, Brown, 2004.

This title presents short retellings of familiar fairy tales, each told in two voices, designed especially for young children and adults to read together. Series.

Jeffers, Susan. ***My Chincoteague Pony.***

Julie, having worked year-round to save money to buy her first Chincoteague pony, realizes she doesn't have enough, but when Pony Penning Day arrives strangers help her make her purchase.

Lies, Brian. ***Bats at the Library.***

Bored with another normal, inky evening, bats discover an open library window and fly in to enjoy the photocopier, water fountain, and especially the books and stories found there.

Minor, Wendell and Florence. ***If You Were a Penguin.***

Illustrations and simple rhyming text tells a story of the fun and excitement of being a penguin.

Mortenson, Greg and Susan L. Roth. ***Listen to the Wind: The Story of Dr. Greg and Three Cups of Tea.***

Children of Korphe, Pakistan describe their world and how they worked with an American to build a school for their village. Stunning collages enhance the story.

O'Connor, Jane. ***Fancy Nancy and the Boy from Paris.***

Nancy is delighted that the new boy in her class is from Paris and sets out to become his friend, then discovers that this Parisian is not quite as fancy as she had thought. Series

Scanlon, Liz Garton. ***All the World.***

The myriad joys of the world are reflected with warmth and affection in this look at a day in a small community near the ocean. (A 2010 Caldecott Honor Book.)

Shannon, David. ***Too Many Toys.***

After he finally concedes that he has far too many toys, Spencer agrees to give many of them away, but realizes that there is one special toy that he absolutely cannot part with.

INTERMEDIATE GRADES

Appelt, Kathi. ***The Underneath.***

An old hound that has been chained up at his hateful owner's run-down shack, and two kittens born underneath the house, endure separation, danger, and many other tribulations in their quest to be reunited and free. Newbery Honor 2009.

Avi. ***Never Mind! : A Twin Novel.***

Twelve-year-old New York City twins Meg and Edward have nothing in common, so they are just as shocked as everyone else when Meg's hopes for popularity and Edward's mischievous schemes coincidentally collide in a hilarious showdown.

Barshaw, Ruth McNally. ***Ellie McDoodle: New Kid in School.***

Armed only with humor, a pen, and a sketchbook, eleven-year-old Ellie McDoodle chronicles her adventures and mishaps as the "new kid" in her new school. *Series*

Barry, Dave. ***Peter and the Starcatchers.***

Peter and a group of fellow orphans assist Molly, a Starcatcher, in guarding a trunk of "mysterious star substance" that has the ability to keep people young and let them fly. *Series*

Birney, Betty G. ***World According to Humphrey.***

Humphrey, a classroom hamster, surveys his surroundings and finds ways to help the children in the class. *Series*

Birney, Betty G. ***Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs.***

Set in 1923, a 12 year old boy is inspired to find wonders in his small town after reading about the Seven Wonders of the World.

Broach, Elise. ***Masterpiece.***

Marvin, a beetle, and his family live in the home of eleven-year-old James and his family. When James' birthday party fails miserably, Marvin surprises James with an elaborately intricate pen and ink drawing Marvin has created.

Trouble is, the drawing is mistaken for James' work, which sets off action that leads to a fast-paced mystery featuring an unlikely friendship, the discovery of art forgery, and thievery.

Choldenko, Gennifer. ***Al Capone Shines My Shoes.***

Moose Flanagan, who lives on Alcatraz along with his family and the families of the other prison guards, is frightened when he discovers that noted gangster Al Capone, a prisoner there, wants a favor in return for the help that he secretly gave Moose. *Sequel*

Cleary, Beverly. ***Ribsy.***

When Ribsy gets lost from his family at the shopping center, he begins a series of humorous escapades and wanderings in his quest to find his family. *Series*

Clements, Andrew. ***No Talking.***

The noisy fifth grade class of Laketon Elementary becomes suspiciously quiet when the boys challenge the girls to a —no talking contest.

Collins, Suzanne. ***Gregor the Overlander.***

Gregor and his two-year old sister fall down a shaft in the basement and find a world of giant insects and rats. They become part of a huge battle. *Series*

Cowley, Joy. ***Snake and Lizard.***

Snake and Lizard's friendship grows as they learn more about each other in this humorous chapter book of likable desert characters.

Creech, Sharon. ***Hate that Cat.***

Jack is studying poetry again in school, and he continues to write poems reflecting his understanding of famous works and how they relate to his life.

DiCamillo, Kate. ***The Magician's Elephant.***

Orphan Peter Augustus Duchene sees a fortune teller that leads him on an adventurous journey involving an elephant and a magician in order to find his long lost younger sister Adele.

Dahl, Roald. ***Matilda.***

Matilda applies her mental powers to rid the school of the evil headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore Miss Honey, her nice teacher, to financial security.

Dennis, Brian. ***Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine & a Miracle.***

Heartwarming true tale of a United States Marine and his canine friend as they met and bonded in Iraq, and how Nubs came to America.

Forester, Victoria. ***The Girl Who Could Fly.***

“Piper decided to jump off the roof. It wasn’t a rash decision on her part.”
And so we meet a strong-willed, generous girl with extraordinary talents.

French, Jackie. ***How to Scratch a Wombat: Where to Find It ... What to Feed It ... Why It Sleeps All Day.***

This book tells you all you need to know about caring for and living with wombats -- how to scratch their backs, how to sing to them, and how to keep the "hairy brown rocks with legs" from breaking your door down -- based on the author's thirty years of experience in her Australian home.

Friedman, Laurie B.. ***Red White & True Blue Mallory.***

On a class trip to Washington, D.C., Mallory keeps a journal in which she writes about sites she visits, her bothersome loose tooth, the lack of attention from her best friend, Mary Ann, and getting lost in a museum. *Series*

Gardiner, John Reynolds. ***Stone Fox.***

Willie hopes to win the purse in a dog sled race in order to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm.

Gifford, Peggy. ***Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Writing Thank-you Notes.***

Ten-year-old Moxy Maxwell has promised to write twelve thank-you notes by the day after Christmas so that she and her twin brother Mark can go to Hollywood to visit their father, but all her brilliant ideas to help finish the task more efficiently end up creating chaos in the house. *Series*

Goldstone, Bruce. ***Great Estimations.***

This book will show you how to train your eyes and your mind to make really great estimations using photographs and easy-to-follow text.

Gutman, Dan. ***Nightmare at the Book Fair.***

Fifth-grader Trip Dinkelman, who does not like to read very much, is hit on the head by a bookfair case and becomes a character in a series of different books including a horror story, an adventure, and a fantasy.

Gutman, Dan. ***Satch and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure.***

With his ability to travel through time using vintage baseball cards, Joe takes Flip with him to find out whether Satchel Paige really was the fastest pitcher ever. *Series*

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. ***Just Ella.***

Fifteen-year old Ella finds that accepting Prince Charming’s proposal ensnares her in such a suffocating tangle of palace rules and royal etiquette that she plots her escape.

Hale, Shannon. ***Rapunzel’s Revenge.***

In this graphic novel, Rapunzel, having grown up in a lovely castle with the woman she thought was her mother, is placed in a very tall hollow tree as punishment after her curiosity prompts her to climb the castle wall and look at the ruin of the world beyond her home. She is able to escape and, with the help of Jack, embarks on a plan to free the land and find her true mother.

Harper, Cherise Mericle. ***Just Grace Walks the Dog.***

Grace hopes to prove to her parents that she can be dependable and responsible enough to have a real dog, not just the cardboard dog she has been pulling around. *Series*

Holm, Jennifer. ***Babymouse: Beach Babe.***

In this graphic novel, Babymouse anticipates the family vacation to the beach with excitement, only to discover things aren't always as imagined - sometimes they're even better! *Series*

Hunter, Erin. ***Into the Wild.***

Four clans of wild cats share a forest. One clan decides to change the "hunting rites" and their peace is challenged. *Series*

Hurwitz, Johanna. ***Fourth Grade Fuss.***

Jolio and his friends enjoy their fourth grade activities – the yard sale, ice skating, and a surprise party; but the students get serious when they have to study for a test. *Series*

Jenkins, Steve. ***Never Smile at a Monkey: And 17 Other Important Things to Remember.***

Incredible cut paper illustrations highlight eighteen creatures whose weapons of teeth, claws, spines, and venom make them dangerous to humans, while the captivating text explains what you should never do if you encounter one of these animals.

Levine, Gail Carson. ***Fairy Dust and the Quest for the Egg.***

Follow fairy Prilla in her quest to save Never Land despite her feelings of inadequacy and frustration over being a "no-talent" fairy. *Series*

Lin, Grace. ***The Year of the Dog.***

Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese-American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog to her own life. *Series*

Look, Lenore. ***Alvin Ho, Allergic to Camping, Hiking, and Other Natural Disasters.***

Laugh as you read about young Alvin Ho, anxious about almost everything, as he experiences his first family camping trip. *Series*

Lowry, Lois. ***Gooney Bird is So Absurd.***

Gooney Bird knows just what to do -- from creating a two-pigtail brain warmer (underpants worn on the head) to leading her classmates in a fitting end to their poetry studies by creating the perfect poem to comfort their hurting teacher. *Series*

Lowry, Lois. ***The Willoughbys.***

The four Willoughby children devise a plan to become orphans, unaware that their despicable parents are trying to lose them. The humorous glossary and annotated reading list of classic children's literature are not to be missed.

Lubar, David. ***Punished.***

Because he was playing tag in the reference section of the library, Logan is punished by Professor Wordsworth, who puts a spell on him that is broken only by finding anagrams, palindromes, and oxymorons.

MacDonald, Betty. ***Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle.***

Loved by children and their parents, Mrs. *Piggle-Wiggle always knows just the right way to solve any problem.* *Series*

MacLachlan, Patricia. ***Sarah, Plain and Tall.***

This sweet prairie tale of a family's experiences with Sarah, a mail-order bride from Maine, begins with children Anna and Caleb worried that their new mother might not like being away from the sea. *Series.*

Mass, Wendy. ***11 Birthdays.***

Best friends since their mothers met at the hospital when they were born, Amanda and Leo always celebrate their birthdays together. However, now that they are turning 11, they are no longer speaking to each other and everything is not as normal as it may appear. This is one birthday that does not seem to end!

Montgomery, Sy. ***The Quest for the Tree Kangaroo.***

Wonderful color photographs and an excellent text provide details of the search for the tree kangaroo in Papua New Guinea's cloud forest.

McDonald, Megan. ***Judy Moody And Stink: The Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Treasure Hunt.***

This island vacation is all about action as Judy Moody and Stink race other teams of vacationing "pirates" to collect gold doubloons in the hunt for Blackbeard's pirate treasure. *Series*

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. ***Shiloh.***

Marty must make some painful decisions about returning a dog to his abusive owner. Newbery Honor Book 1992. *Series*

O'Connor, Barbara. ***The Small adventures of Popeye and Elvis.***

Popeye grabs at a chance for adventure and friendship when a boy his age names Elvis rolls into the sleepy town of Fayette.

O'Malley, Kevin. ***Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude.***

Cooperatively writing a fairy tale for school, a girl imagines a beautiful princess whose beloved ponies are being stolen by a giant, and a boy conjures up the muscular biker who will guard the last pony in exchange for gold.

Peck, Richard. ***On the Wings of Heroes.***

Set in the time period of World War II, Davy Bowman has two heroes: his dad who fought in World War I and his brother who is currently in the Air Force.

Pennypacker, Sara. ***Clementine.***

Clementine is a funny, energetic, third grader with a talent for getting in trouble and a heart of gold. *Series*

Philbrick, Rodman. ***The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg.***

Homer P. Figg escapes from his wretched foster home in Pine Swamp, Maine, and sets out to find his beloved older brother, Harold, who has been illegally sold into the Union Army. Newbery Honor, 2010.

Riordan, Rick. ***Maze of Bones.***

When Amy and Dan's grandmother passes away, they are offered two choices: take one million dollars or get the first clue to what could be "the most important treasure in the world." *Series*

Roy, Ron. ***A to Z Mysteries.***

Elementary schoolers Dink, Josh, and Ruth Rose work together to solve mysteries. *Series*

Ruddell, Deborah. ***A Whiff of Pine, A Hint of Skunk: A Forest of Poems.***

Clever rhyming verse showcases a variety of forest animals throughout the seasons.

Scieszka, Jon. ***Summer Reading is Killing Me.***

Anticipating a great summer, Fred, Sam, and Joe time travel and find themselves in the midst of a battle between good and evil characters from their summer reading list. *Series*

Stewart, Trenton Lee. ***The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey.***

Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance, all graduates of the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened and members of the Benedict Society, embark on a scavenger hunt that turns into a desperate search for the missing Mr. Benedict. *Series*

Stilton, Geronimo. ***The Geronimo Stilton series.***

Geronimo Stilton is a mouse newspaper editor and journalist who travels the world to chase important interviews but winds up in the middle of adventures that involve intriguing mysteries.

Tolan, Stephanie S. ***Wishworks Inc.***

Third grader Max copes with his parents' divorce by retreating into an imaginary world complete with an imaginary dog to protect him from the bullies at school until he realizes that one must be careful what one wishes for even at his imaginary Wishworks, Inc.

MIDDLE GRADES

Anderson, Laurie Halse. ***Fever, 1793.***

In 1793, Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, who is separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

Barry, Dave. ***Peter and the Secret of Rundoon.***

Fearing that the sinister Lord Ombra was not destroyed, Peter and Molly travel to the land of Rundoon, which is ruled by the evil King Zarboff. *Series*

Birdsall, Jeanne. ***The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy; (National Book Award for Young People's Literature) The Penderwicks on Gardam Street.***

This summer the Penderwicks are spending the summer at the beautiful estate called Arundel where they discover the summertime magic of its sprawling gardens, treasure-filled attic, tame rabbits, and the cook who makes the best gingerbread in Massachusetts. But the best discovery of all is Jeffrey Tifton, son of Arundel's owner, who quickly proves to be the perfect companion for their adventures.

Carey, Janet Lee. ***Dragon's Keep.***

In 1145 A.D., as foretold by Merlin, fourteen-year-old Rosalind will be the twenty-first Pendragon Queen of Wilde Island. But she has much to accomplish to fulfill her destiny, all the while hiding from her people the dragon's claw she was born with.

Colfer, Eoin ***Airman.***

In the late nineteenth century on an island off the Irish coast, Conor Broekhart discovers a conspiracy to overthrow the king. He is branded a traitor, imprisoned, and forced to mine for diamonds under brutal conditions while he plans a daring escape from Little Saltee prison by way of a flying machine that he must design and build.

Collins, Suzanne. ***Gregor the Overlander; Gregor and the Prophecy of Bane; Gregor and the Curse of the Warmbloods; Gregor and the Marks of Secret; Gregor and the Code of Claw.***

When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving humans, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy.
Series

Cooney, Doug. ***The Beloved Dearly.***

Ernie is a twelve-year-old tycoon, always on the lookout for a fast buck. This time he stumbles onto a money-making bonanza: pet funerals. He hires Dusty to decorate the burial boxes and Tony to dig the holes, but his prize find is Swimming Pool, a tomboy who can cry on cue.

Creech, Sharon. ***Heartbeat.***

Twelve-year-old Annie ponders the many rhythms of life the year that her mother becomes pregnant, her grandfather begins faltering, and her best friend (and running partner) becomes distant.

Crossley-Holland, Kevin. ***The Seeing Stone.***

Arthur, a thirteen-year-old boy in late twelfth-century England, tells how Merlin gave him a magical seeing stone which shows him images of the legendary King Arthur. *Trilogy*

Curtis, Christopher Paul. ***Bucking the Sarge.***

Deeply involved in his cold and manipulative mother's shady business dealings in Flint, Michigan, fourteen-year-old Luther keeps a sense of humor while running the Happy Neighbor Group Home For Men, all the while dreaming of going to college and becoming a philosopher.

Deuker, Carl. ***Gym Candy.***

Freshman running back Mick Johnson works hard to make his dream of football stardom come true, finding the edge he needs to become bigger, stronger, and faster with the help of steroids—despite consequences to his health and social life.

Dowd, Siobhan. ***The London Eye Mystery.***

When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

Hahn, Mary Downing. ***Deep and Dark and Dangerous: A Ghost Story.***

When thirteen-year-old Ali spends the summer with her aunt and cousin at the family's vacation home, she stumbles upon a secret that her mother and aunt have been hiding for over thirty years.

Feinstein, John. ***Cover-Up: Mystery at the Super Bowl.***

Steve Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson, high school reporters, learn that every player on the offensive line of a pro football team slated to play in the Super Bowl has failed his drug test and that the team owner has covered it up. Now they must find a way to prove it.

Fleischman, Sid. ***Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini.***

Born Ehrich Weiss into a poor and struggling family, Harry Houdini sought out fame and went on to perform some of the world's most astonishing magic tricks. Houdini's story is a classic rags to riches story with plenty of personality to spare.

Gaiman, Neil. ***Coraline.***

In Coraline's family's new flat are twenty-one windows and fourteen doors. Thirteen of the doors open and close. The fourteenth is locked, and on the other side is only a brick wall, until the day Coraline unlocks the door to find a passage to another flat in another house just like her own. Only it's different. A creepy read!

Gaiman, Neil. ***The Graveyard Book.***

Toddler Bod, short for Nobody, stumbles into a graveyard after his family is brutally murdered, and is raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen by the graveyard's ghosts and otherworldly creatures. Newbery Award 2009

Green, Tim. ***Football Genius; Football Champ.***

Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players.

Gutman, Dan. ***Jackie & Me. (Baseball Card Adventure)***

With his ability to travel through time by using baseball cards, Joe Stoshack goes back to 1947 to meet Jackie Robinson, turning into a black boy in the process. *Series*

Hale, Shannon. ***Book of a Thousand Days.***

Dashti, a maid, and Lady Saren, her mistress, are shut in a tower for seven years for Saren's refusal to marry a man she despises, and the two prepare for a long, dark imprisonment. Saren's two suitors—one welcome, and the other decidedly less so—arrive outside the tower, bringing both hope and danger.

Hardinge, Frances. ***The Lost Conspiracy.***

A complex political puzzle filled with subterfuge and intrigue is at the center of this enticing fantasy set on a remote tropical island about two sisters who must grapple with an unknown evil.

Hesse, Karen, ***Brooklyn Bridge.***

Joe, fourteen, is the first member of his Russian-Jewish family born in the United States. He wonders if he will ever get to go to Coney Island, but in 1903 his life changes when his parents turn their apartment into a teddy-bear factory. The story alternates, and eventually becomes linked, between Joe's life and the lives of vagrant children who live under the Brooklyn Bridge.

Hiaasen, Carl. ***Scat.***

Nick and Marta are determined to find what happened to the biology teacher after she disappears on a school field trip to Black Vine Swamp resulting in a fast paced ecological mystery involving the Florida Panther and a cast of unique characters.

Holt, Kimberly Willis. ***When Zachary Beaver Came to Town.***

During the summer of 1971 in a small Texas town, thirteen-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the world. National Book Award winner

Horvath, Polly. ***My One Hundred Adventures.***

Twelve-year-old Jane lives in an old beach house with her mother and three younger siblings. She has a busy summer meeting her mother's old boyfriends, helping a neighbor deliver Bibles, and being talked into baby-sitting a neighbor's rambunctious children.

Kelly, Jacqueline. ***The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate.***

Calpurnia struggles with growing up as she spends more of her free time with her grandfather, an avid naturalist, examining the beauty of nature, while at the same time her mother wants to teach her the responsibilities of a young woman during the turn of the century in Central Texas. Newbery Honor, 2010

Kerr, P. B. ***The Cobra King of Kathmandu.***

Djinn twins John and Phillipa go to India to search for the cobra talisman which gives the person who wields it power over their friend Mr. Rakshasas, a very elderly djinn. *Series*

Korman, Gordon. ***The 6th Grade Nickname Game.***

Eleven-year-old best friends Jeff and Wiley, who like to give nicknames to their classmates, try to find the right one for the new girl Cassandra, while adjusting to the football coach who has become their new teacher.

Levine, Gail Carson. ***The Princess Tales, Volume 1: The Fairy's Mistake, The Princess Test, Princess Sonora and the Long Sleep; The Princess Tales, Volume 2: Cinderellis and the Glass Hill, For Biddle's Sake, The Fairy's Return.***

Humorous retelling of three classic fairy tales.

Lowry, Lois. ***Number the Stars.***

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis. Newbery Medal Winner

Lupica, Mike. ***Heat.***

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball. Rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old, but he has no parents to offer them proof.

Margolis, Leslie. ***Boys are Dogs; Girls Acting Catty.***

After Annabelle's mother starts dating a new boyfriend, she faces life in a new town with a new school, and a new puppy, and while training the dog Annabelle decides to experiment with some of her training techniques to deal with the unruly middle school boys in her class.

Merrill, Jan. ***The Pushcart War.***

The outbreak of a war between truck drivers and pushcart peddlers brings the mounting problems of traffic to the attention of both the city of New York and the world.

Miller, Sarah. ***Miss Spitfire.***

This is Annie Sullivan's story of challenge and determination as she tries to become a teacher of the child Helen Keller, who is blind, deaf, and overindulged by her desperate parents.

Montgomery, L. M.. ***Anne of Green Gables.***

Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make a lasting impression on everyone around her.

Murphy, Jim. ***Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting.***

In the middle of World War I, British and German forces quit fighting to celebrate Christmas together peacefully. First person details present the human side of this bloody war.

Oppel, Kenneth. ***Silverwing; Sunwing; Firewing; Darkwing.***

Shade is the runt of his Silverwing bat colony, determined to prove himself on the dangerous migration to Hibernaculum. During a fierce storm, he loses the others and soon faces the most incredible journey of his short life. A fantastic page turning adventure. *Series*

Patterson, James. ***Maximum Ride, the Angel Experiment.***

After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the birdkids take off in pursuit and find themselves battling their seemingly evil creators. *Maximum Ride Series*

Ryan, Pam Munoz. ***Becoming Naomi Leon.***

When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father.

Scieszka, Jon. ***Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories About Growing Up Scieszka.***

Hilarious memoir of what it was like to grow up in the 1950's.

Shearer, Alex. ***Canned.***

Fergal Bamfield has a unique hobby: collecting tin cans without labels. He meets Charlotte, a fellow can collector, and they find some gruesome things inside the cans, like an ear and a human finger! Together, Fergal and Charlotte set out to learn the origins of these mysterious cans. Despite the macabre subject matter, *Canned* is a funny, quirky read.

Smith, Roland. ***Peak.***

Plucked by police from the top of a New York skyscraper, a fourteen-year-old boy and mountain climber wannabe finds himself facing the challenge of his life: climbing Mt. Everest.

Smith, Roland. ***Tentacles.***

After the mysterious disappearance of their parents, Marty and Grace go to live with their scientist uncle and accompany him on what soon becomes an increasingly dangerous expedition to New Zealand to track a giant squid.

Spinelli, Jerry. ***Maniac Magee.***

Young Jeffrey "Maniac" Magee appears in Two Mills, apparently out of nowhere, and takes the town by storm in a cross between a tall tale and a twentieth-century morality play told with exaggeration, humor, and melodrama. Newbery Medal Winner

Springer, Nancy. ***The Case of the Left-Handed Lady.*** (*Enola Holmes Mystery*)

Enola Holmes, much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, must travel to London in disguise to unravel the disappearance of her missing mother. *Series*

Stewart, Trenton Lee. ***The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey.***

Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance, all graduates of the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened and members of the Benedict Society, embark on a scavenger hunt that turns into a desperate search for the missing Mr. Benedict. *Series*

Sturm, James, Andrew Arnold and Alex Frederick-Frost. ***Adventures in Cartooning.***

The Magic Cartooning Elf mesmerizes readers with the story of a knight and a princess that also provides step-by-step instruction for creating cartoons.

Swanson, James L. ***Chasing Lincoln's Killer.***

This is a nail-biting and detailed telling of the assassination of Lincoln and all the accompanying chaos of the struggle to catch his killer.

Tarshis, Lauren. ***Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree; Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell In Love.***

A quirky and utterly logical seventh-grade girl named Emma-Jean Lazarus discovers some interesting results when she gets involved in the messy everyday problems of her peers.

Taylor, Theodore. ***The Cay, Timothy of The Cay.***

Shipwrecked on a tiny Caribbean island, Philip must overcome his prejudice towards Timothy, the old black sailor who becomes the key to his survival. Timothy of the Cay is the prequel/sequel.

Urban, Linda. ***A Crooked Kind of Perfect.***

Ten-year-old Zoe Elias longs to play the piano and become a musical prodigy, wearing a grand tiara. Unfortunately, her father buys her an organ instead. A humorous story about family, friends, and school social life.

Winthrop, Elizabeth. ***Counting on Grace.***

After twelve-year-old Grace is forced to leave school to work in a textile mill, she and her friend Arthur work with their teacher to have the laws changed.

Yancey, Richard. ***The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp.***

Orphaned and incurably-geeky teen Alfred Kropp is coerced by his unscrupulous uncle into stealing a valuable sword that turns out to be Excalibur, and he is drawn into a dangerous and violent misadventure.